GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1716
ANSWERED ON:04.05.2016
Strength of IFS
Chaudhary Shri P.P.;Joshi Shri Chandra Prakash;Kachhadia Shri Naranbhai;Raj Dr. Udit

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be please to state:

(a) the sanctioned strength and the number of vacancies in the Indian Foreign Service and in the Ministry of External Affairs;

(b) the time by when such vacancies are likely to be filled;

(c) whether there is a proposal to allow the entry of professionals and those with graduate and doctoral degrees in the fields of international and external affairs into the Indian Foreign Service laterally, without the UPSC exam;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether lateral hiring is currently done at the Indian Foreign Service;

(f) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(g) the number of positions available and the levels as well as nature of service where lateral hiring is allowed in the Indian Foreign Service and the details thereof?

Answer

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) & (b) The total sanctioned strength of Indian Foreign Service is 912. Total strength of MEA personnel at Headquarters and Missions abroad is 4054. Vacancies arising at various levels in the Ministry are filled by direct recruitment and promotions from feeder cadres. Ministry of External Affairs also takes officials from other Departments/Ministries on deputation.

(c) & (d) There is no proposal to allow the entry of professionals and those with graduate and doctoral degrees in the fields of international and external affairs into the Indian Foreign Service laterally, without the UPSC exam.

(e) to (g) Professionals and experts are currently hired in the Ministry as Consultants. The number of Consultants engaged in the Ministry of External Affairs varies depending on requirement.